

National Forensic League
Lincoln-Douglas Debates

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Debates

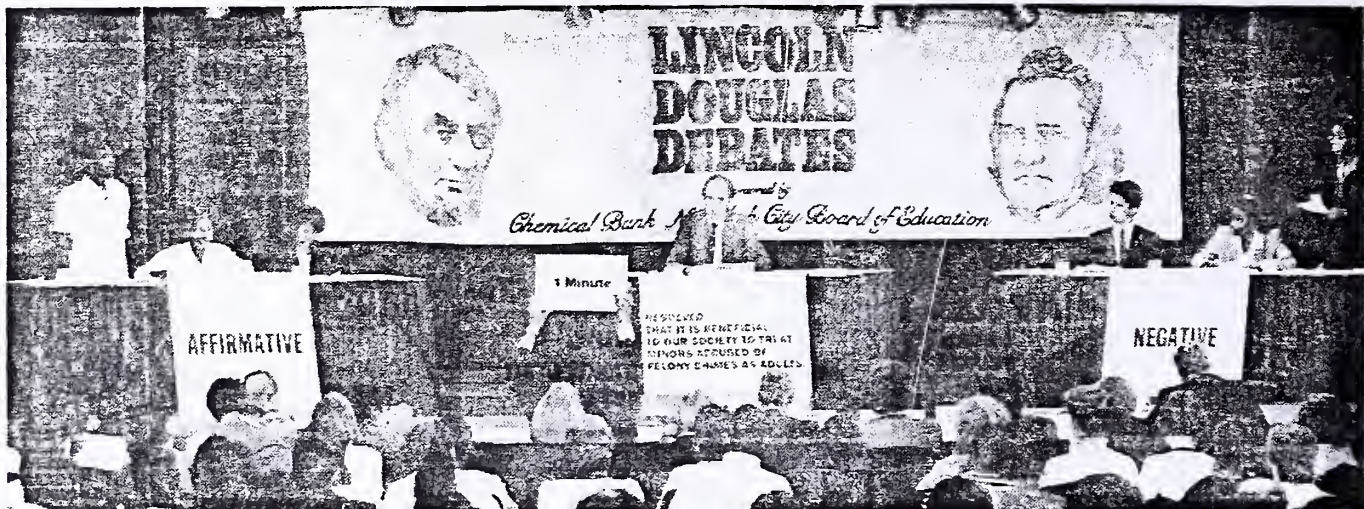
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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

National Forensic League
Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



UPDATED DEBATES: Participants in yesterday's contest in Chemical Bank's headquarters in lower Manhattan.

JACK SMITH DAILY NEWS

Crime edges out politics as issue

By JAMES HARNEY

Daily News Staff Writer

When Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas squared off in the original Lincoln-Douglas Debates some 130 years ago, American teenagers didn't commit crimes like rape, robbery and assault.

But life — and crime — in America in 1989 is not what it was in 1858. And so it was that the issue being debated yesterday at the finals of the sixth annual Lincoln-Douglas Debates for city high school students was: "Resolved: It is beneficial to our society to treat minors accused of felony crimes as adults."

"Juveniles (today) are committing

more violent and brutal crimes," said Lea Josephs, one of a three-member team from the Manhattan Center for Math and Science that was debating in favor of treating juvenile offenders as adults.

But the opposing team from John Dewey High School in Brooklyn argued that juvenile offenders cannot be properly rehabilitated in adult prisons.

"According to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, rehabilitation has been able to 'turn around' 75% of all juveniles, whereas the number of juveniles 'turned around' after being treated as adults is only 57%," argued Dewey debater Asahi Pompey.

Lincoln and Douglas would have been impressed with the rebuttal phases of the competition, in which students from opposing teams went at one another in spirited one-on-one counter-arguments.

"What's the difference between a juvenile accused of a crime and an adult accused of the same crime?" asked Diana Pringle of the Manhattan Center. "Isn't the juvenile just as dangerous as an adult?"

"The difference is the degree of maturity," responded Dewey's Richard Azzolino.

"But is there any difference in the victim?" Pringle demanded.

"No," conceded Azzolino. "there is no difference in the victim."

Despite their aggressive debating style, Manhattan Center lost to Dewey. In the second round, a team from Francis Lewis High School in Queens, which also argued in favor of the issue, fell to a trio from Manhattan's Stuyvesant High.

The competition was co-sponsored by the Daily News, the Board of Education and Chemical Bank, and held at Chemical's headquarters at 55 Water St. Each debater on the winning teams got a \$10,000 college scholarship, and their schools received \$5,000 each. The runner-up debaters each took home a \$4,000 scholarship, and their schools received \$2,000 each.

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SUBMITTED BY: jie

Wed Feb 08 09:27:31 1995

Date: February 7, 1995

To: All Lincoln Life Home Office associates

From: Jon Boscia

Re: Lincoln Life Sponsors the National Forensic League's
Lincoln-Douglas Debates

At a press conference tomorrow morning in Washington, D.C., we will announce Lincoln Life's sponsorship of the National Forensic League's high school debate program known as the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

I am very pleased that for at least the next three years we will support this unique forum for the exchange of ideas based on the original Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. Our sponsorship underscores our commitment to education and the preservation of Abraham Lincoln's legacy.

Lincoln-Douglas debates focus on issues of morals and values. Nearly 20,000 high school students across the country take part in the debates each year. About 200 students compete in the national championships, to be held this year in June in Florida.

Lincoln Life's sponsorship includes providing prizes for students who win district tournaments. In addition, we will provide scholarships for the national champion, as well as for the students who place second, third and fourth nationally.

Founded in 1925, the National Forensic League is a high school speech honorary society with chapters in 2,500 schools nationwide. The league sponsors district and national competition in several formats of debate: discussion, student congress and the premier debate format, the Lincoln-Douglas debate series.

National Forensic League alumni include Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Supreme Court Justice Steven Breyer, Attorney General Janet Reno, Senators Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and William First (D-Tenn.), Academy Award winners Patricia Neal and Don Ameche, actors Bette Midler, James Dean, Shelley Long and Daniel J. Travanti, talk show host Oprah Winfrey, NBC newscaster Jane Pauley and media moguls Ted Turner (Turner Broadcasting) and Brian Lamb (C-Span).

--Lamb and Pauley to be recognized

Also tomorrow, in conjunction with The Lincoln Museum, Lincoln Life will present the first Spirit of Lincoln Award to Brian Lamb. As founder and CEO of the cable network C-Span, Lamb has been instrumental in bringing straight-forward reporting of Congressional debates, political conventions and presidential speeches into America's homes in a neutral manner, without media interpretation. Lamb's determination to provide viewers with in-depth coverage as an alternative to the short news reports on network television makes a positive contribution to our society.

Jane Pauley will be present to accept the National Forensic League's Communicator of the Year Award. She is co-anchor of "Dateline NBC."



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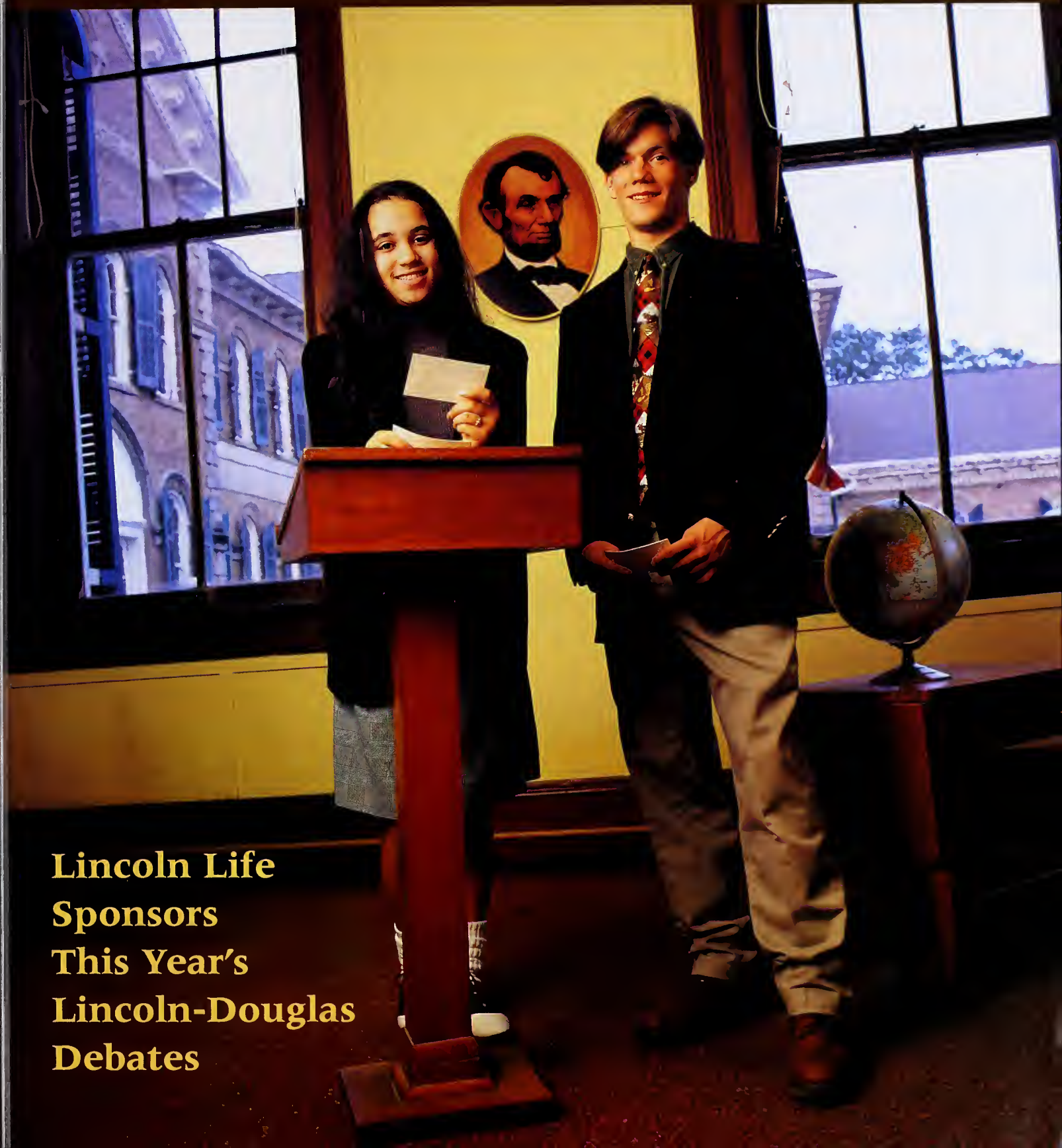
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**Lincoln Life
Sponsors
This Year's
Lincoln-Douglas
Debates**

INTRODUCING LINCOLN LIFE

NFL'S NEW SPONSOR

At Lincoln Life we strive to run our business in the spirit of our famous namesake. Like Abraham Lincoln, our roots are in the Midwest, where speaking your mind and keeping your word are held in high regard.

Almost a century ago, Lincoln's eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, granted us permission to use his father's name and likeness. Since then we have worked hard to live up to the 16th president's standards of integrity, honesty, straight talk and compassion in all our business dealings.



Matthew Brady's Photo

Those values have helped us become one of the country's largest life insurance companies. We provide millions of American families with insurance products and financial services; life, annuities, pension, long-term care, disability income, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, and investment advisory services.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company was founded in Fort Wayne, Ind, in 1905. Today, we are still head-

quartered in Fort Wayne, but our products are sold nationally through multiple distribution channels, including Lincoln Financial Group, our network of regional marketing offices. Lincoln Life is licensed and conducts business in 49 states and Guam.

Lincoln Life is the 12th largest life insurance company in the United States. Our financial highlights at year-end 1994 include:

- * Assets of more than \$39 billion.
- * Revenues of more than \$2.5 billion.
- * Annuity and pension assets under management of \$30.4 billion.
- * Universal Life account values of \$2.4 billion.

Additionally, Best's Review magazine has ranked Lincoln Life the number one seller of individual annuities in the United States in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

In 1995 we are celebrating our 90th anniversary. Even as we acknowledge the successes of the past, we enter our tenth decade striving toward a new vision: To be the best customer-focused, service-led company in the Americas. Thus, we hold ourselves financially accountable in every transaction and we treat our clients' money as if it were our own.

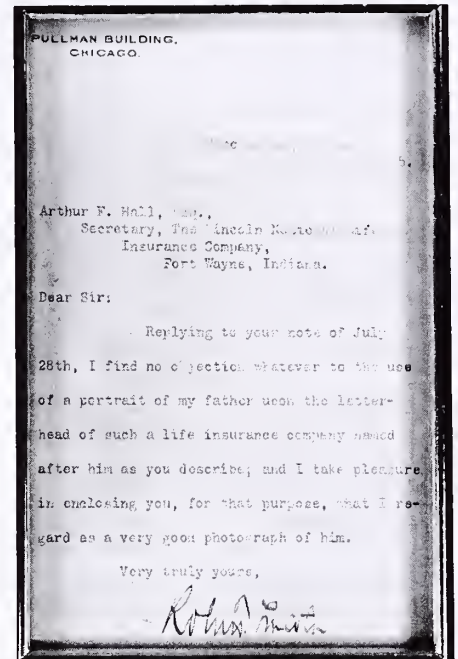
One of the most reliable measures of an insurance company's financial and claims-paying strength is through ratings made by independent agencies. The assessments of these experts underscore Lincoln Life's firm commitment to meet our financial obligations to our customers.

- * A.M. Best has given Lincoln Life an A+ (Superior) rating since 1976, the first

year alphabetical ratings were established.

- * Moody's has assigned Lincoln Life an Aaa (Excellent) rating.
- * Duff & Phelps awards its highest rating of AAA to Lincoln Life.

In December 1862, as civil war raged, President Lincoln sent his annual address to Congress. His message included these words: "We can succeed only by concert. It is not 'can any of us imagine better?' but 'can we all do better?' Object whatsoever is possible, still the



Robert Lincoln's Letter

question recurs, 'can we do better?' The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew."

At Lincoln Life we have rededicated ourselves to the spirit of those inspiring words. We accept as our credo that we can always do better. In all of our dealings we will think anew and act anew.

The Rostrum

LINCOLN LIFE SPONSORS NFL LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

High school debating named after Abraham Lincoln and his most famous adversary was celebrated in Washington, D.C., on February 8, just a few days before Lincoln's birthday.

At a special ceremony, Lincoln National Life Insurance Company ("Lincoln Life") announced its sponsorship of the National Forensic League's Lincoln-Douglas debates. Two respected National Forensic League alumni, NBC-TV news co-anchor Jane Pauley and C-Span CEO Brian Lamb, received awards. Pauley was presented with the National Forensic League's "Communicator of the Year" Award. Lamb received the "Spirit of Lincoln" Award from Lincoln Life and The Lincoln Museum. The Lincoln Museum, located in Fort Wayne, Indiana has one of the largest collections of Lincoln memorabilia in the world.

"Lincoln Life is proud to sponsor the Lincoln-Douglas Debates," said Jon Boscia, Lincoln Life president. "By sponsoring the debates, we're not only preserving the legacy of President Lincoln, we're also underwriting the future of America."

Held at the prestigious National Press Club, the Washington celebration also included prize-winning student debaters Jason Baldwin and Claire Carman who gave a model debate on the topic, "Resolved, that the spirit of the law ought to take priority over the letter of the law."

Recognition

In addition to the announcement celebration in Washington, Lincoln Life is mounting major national and grass roots public relations and advertising programs to support the Lincoln Life Lincoln-Douglas debate competitions. Providing high-profile public recognition of student efforts across

the nation is the major thrust for the Lincoln Life sponsorship. Media across the country will be contacted and invited to the district tournaments. Special publicity will be arranged in six key cities, including Nashville, Chicago, Denver, Charlotte and Los Angeles. National publicity will be sought to cover the debate finals in Ft. Lauderdale in June. A video news release will be produced at the finals and sent to television stations across the country for use on their local news programs. Lincoln Life will also run print ads in select newspapers nationwide.



Awards

Lincoln Life will provide prizes for students who win district tournaments. It will also provide scholarships for the national champion, as well as the debaters who place second, third and fourth nationally.

In 1980, the National Forensic League introduced the modern Lincoln-Douglas debate format, named after the 1858 debates between candidates Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. The Lincoln-Douglas debates have become the largest and fastest-growing national speech competition, with participation by 2,000 high schools and nearly 20,000 students. The appeal of this debate format is that it allows two individual students--rather than two teams--to debate on important moral and value questions.

"We are extremely excited that Lincoln Life has become the national sponsor of the 1995 Lincoln-Douglas debates," said National Forensic League Executive Secretary James Cope-land, "This company, which originally received permission from Lincoln's son, Robert Lincoln, for its name, is the ideal sponsor for an event which is modeled after the original debates. Abraham Lincoln spent his entire political career debating and speaking about the moral questions facing American Society. The Lincoln-Douglas debates carry on that tradition."

Champions

The two student debaters participating in the model Lincoln-Douglas debate at the Washington, awards ceremony were Jason Baldwin, 19, who was Outstanding Debater at the 1993 Tournament of Champions, and Claire Carman, 18, First Place winner in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the 1994 NFL National Debate Tournament. Both have won numerous additional national invitational championships.

Both Jason and Claire give much credit to their teacher and debate coach, Marilee Dukes, for recruiting and working hard with them through high school.

"The top quality that great debaters possess is self-discipline," says Ms. Dukes. "Debating is very hard work; it takes lots of research and preparation. The communication skills that one develops will last forever and bring invaluable poise and confidence."

The Washington model debate was moderated by Professor James J. Unger of the American University. NFL students and coaches from St. John's (DC), Blacksburg (VA) and Springfield-Lee (VA) high schools were in attendance.

LINCOLN LIFE SPONSORSHIP RECEPTION



Debater Claire Carman about to cut Lincoln Cake as Spirit of Lincoln award winner Brian Lamb, debater Jason Baldwin, and Lincoln Life President Jon Boscia look on.



NFL Secretary James Copeland, NBC's Jane Pauley, and Lincoln Life President Jon Boscia about to sample Lincoln Cake



Gerald Prokopowicz, Jane Pauley, Brain Lamb, and Jon Boscia admire Stove Pipe Hat Cake.



C-SPAN CEO Brian Lamb with coach Marilee Duke and debaters Claire Carman, and Jason Baldwin

AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

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Lincoln-Douglas debates help nurture success

By Frank Gray
The Journal Gazette

Boasting that you are a star debater has never been a particularly popular way of getting a date. Somehow, football or basketball stars have more appeal.

But those looking further ahead than the weekend might find that the ability to examine an issue from several angles — and argue different sides — gives them an edge in getting a job and moving up the career ladder.

For the second year, Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. has been promoting that point by sponsoring the Lincoln-Douglas Debate, a national competition in which high school debaters face off to ar-

gue predetermined questions of morality, ethics and policy. Through the series, debaters flip-flop, taking one position in one debate, and then arguing the opposite viewpoint.

Playing off debate's potential for excitement, and noting that people such as Oprah Winfrey, Ted Turner and Colin Powell have been involved in speech competition, Lincoln hopes to increase involvement.

The company awards \$20,000 in scholarships to the top four finishers nationally.

Friday, four more national debate champions emerged in North Carolina during the National Forensic League's national championships.

The national winner was Dan Vukolich of Shakopee, Minn.

Jennifer Smosna of Munster finished 13th, highest among the four northern Indiana students who competed in the national tournament.

The benefits of debate are obvious to people like Jon Boscia, president of Lincoln National Life.

People with experience in debate seem to stand out in job interviews, Boscia said.

When looking for a job, for example, the single biggest criterion is how a person performs in the interview.

"If you can't hold a decent conversation, if you only answer questions instead of asking questions," it diminishes your chances of get-

ting the job, he said.

"Debate teaches you how to ask probing questions and not take superficial answers," Boscia said. The Lincoln-Douglas debate series, which originated in the early 1980s, fosters that depth of thinking, Boscia said.

Most people look at issues from a single perspective. "But debate teaches there are multiple views" to any question. "You've got to be able to defend any position." To be able to research and defend opposing positions opens your mind, he said.

For all its benefits, however, debating is far from the rage. Boscia laments that only half of America's high schools have speech or debate programs. Financial reasons —

paying coaches and taking debaters to tournaments — seems to be the biggest roadblock.

Image plays a role, too. Many people seem to think that high school debaters are different, conservative, too mainstream, and not in touch with the things that interest other teens.

But last week's national finals showed debaters are far from a bunch of people in school ties.

Participants ranged from Ivy League types to grungers. Those not involved also tend to think debate is dull, Boscia said.

In fact, debate is not a stuffy discourse between two people, but often a fuming free-for-all between two people determined to win an argument.

